

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-40 are pending in this application. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 18-40 have been added.

Consideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Percy L. Square (Reg. No. 51,084) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Preliminary Amendment of March 22, 2004

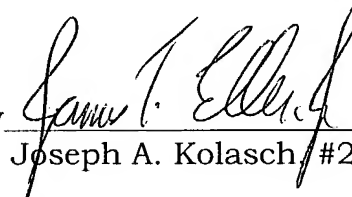
Appln. No.: 10/613,113
Atty. Docket No.: 0465-1038P


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

 #39,538
Joseph A. Kolasch #22,463


JAK/PLS:jls
0465-1038P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s):

(Rev. 02/12/2004)